

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 09/08/2005, assigned serial 10/519,369 and titled "Method for Controlling the Speed of a Vehicle."

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 05/04/2009 have been fully considered and persuasive. The examiner has found the current claims 12-14, and 23 are now patentable over the cited prior art.

The prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 is the reference of Shehan et al (US 6,122,588) which discloses a vehicle speed control system/method for reducing speed of a vehicle to maintain a target vehicle include determining an actual vehicle speed to generate a speed error. However, Shehan et al. fails to disclose "the first predefined speed difference is specified such that the activation of the service brake occurs only when the engine braking action realized by a deceleration fuel-cutoff has already reached a maximum value" as now required in the claim. Neither Shehan et al, nor any other prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed feature above.

For that reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are set in a condition for allowance.

Art Unit: 3663

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tuan C To/

Primary Examiner

August 4, 2009